



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

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MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference – Defense Science Board Task Force on Deterring, Preventing, and Responding to the Threat or Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction

The underlying technologies of weapons of mass destruction [nuclear, chemical, and biological, and depending on scope, radiological, weapons] are widely known and understood. Nuclear weapons technology is more than seven decades old, and weapons capabilities have been developed by some of the most impoverished and underdeveloped nations on earth. Chemical weapons have been available for more than a century while primitive biological weapons have been used for millennia. Radiological material is readily accessible in the civil sector and its malicious distribution and may have highly disruptive effects even if it is not nearly as destructive as nuclear weapons.

The purpose of this study is to identify ways in which deterrence can evolve given a changing security environment, and should deterrence alone prove inadequate, then identify additional ways to prevent and respond, both for the United States and for its allies. The study will investigate how the threat or use of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical, biological, and radiological weapons) can be best addressed through deterrence, prevention, defense and/or response. The study will address questions as: What capabilities are available for early detection of research, development and acquisition? What technology advances are necessary to deter or prevent following early detection? How far can such advances and others that are yet to be fielded go in deterring WMD use? Will declared policies and capabilities remain sufficiently credible?

I will sponsor the study. Dr. Miriam John and Dr. William Schneider will serve as Co-chairs of the study. Christine Parthemore, (OASD/NCB) will serve as Executive Secretary. CAPT James CoBell, USN, will serve as the DSB Secretariat Representative.

The study will operate in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 92-463, the “Federal Advisory Committee Act” and DoD Directive 5105.04, the DoD Federal Advisory Committee Management Program.” It is not anticipated that this study will need to go into any “particular matters” within the meaning of title 18, United States Code, section 208, nor will it cause any member to be placed in the position of action as a procurement official.

Frank Kendall